

fire had swept through a large part of Washington D.C. leaving many people homeless and in need of help. As one might expect, many people wanted to help, including the Congress of the United States of America. On the morning after the fire, with compassionate haste, Congress voted twenty thousand dollars of the nation's money to be given to the victims of the fire. One well known congressman in particular voted in approval of this bill; his name was Davy Crockett.

When Crockett returned to his home state, he expected to be greeted with much praise and approval for having extended kindness to those in need with his vote in favor of this bill. However, as he was walking down a small, country road, he instead received a surprising rebuke! He met up with a voter from his state. Asking this man if when the time came to reelect Crockett as a Congressman he would vote for him, the man, whose name was Horatio Bunce, responded to Crockett by telling him that he would most definitely not! His reason, even more shocking to Crockett, was because of the way that Crockett had voted on the bill afore mentioned! A shocked and confused Crockett asked him why he was not happy with his position on this bill. Bunce then reminded him that no power had ever been given to the Congress by the Constitution to spend the public's money for the benefit of a special group of people, no matter how desperate the situation was. Any money spent by Congress had to be spent on something that would benefit the whole country equally and not just a special part of it. Crockett quickly realized that he had been wrong failing in the true application of the Constitution's original intent. He apologized to Bunce and his other constituents for what he had done promising that he would always remember the lesson that Bunce had taught him that day concerning the Congress' power in the spending of the people's money as clearly stated in the Constitution.

After this occurrence, Crockett was faced with another Constitutional decision concerning this same controversial 'general welfare' clause. Congress was to vote again on whether they should give money to a special group. This time it was an individual—a widow of a deceased naval officer. When it came time to vote, Congressman Crockett rose and boldly said the following:

"Mr. Speaker, I have as much sympathy as . . . any man in this House, but . . . Congress has no power to appropriate this money as an act of charity. Every member upon this house floor knows it. We have the right as individuals, to give away as much of our own money as we please in charity; but as members of Congress we have no right to appropriate a dollar of the public money . . . Mr. Speaker, I have said the we have the right to give as much of our own money as we please. I am the poorest man on this floor. I cannot vote for this bill, but I give one week's pay to the object, and if every member of the Congress will do the same, it will amount to more than the bill asks."

The bill was turned down as a result of this and Crockett did give one week of his pay as an act of charity to the widow, but, interestingly enough, not one of the other Congressman did the same! This is an important point for us to understand. When the Congressmen were going to give money to the widow that was not theirs to give, the amount of money to be given was to be large. But when it came to giving out of their own pockets, they could not bring themselves to do it! It seems that it is much easier for people to be generous and compassionate with money that is not theirs than to meet other's needs with their own.

In Article 1, Section 8, paragraph 1, clause 4 of the Constitution of the United States, it

states that Congress has the power to spend money for the "general welfare of the United States." The key word in this statement is the word "general." When the writers included the word "general" in this sentence, they wanted the people to know and understand that Congress was only allowed to spend money that would benefit the people of the United States as a whole equally, not as a special group or just part of its population.

In fact, there is no provision in the Constitution for the use of monies to be given to any special interest groups, states, cities, or citizens. This would be called special welfare and cannot be found anywhere in the Constitution! Obviously, this clause is now violated all of the time as it has been grossly twisted and misinterpreted ever since the Supreme Court, which has no authority to write law, supported this 'special welfare' view of this clause in 1936. Now we pay taxes and Congress uses them to pay for things that do not help everyone equally in our nation but fall instead to special people with special needs. This is wrong and goes against what the founder's original intentions were for the resource of the people's money that they have been entrusted to protect.

Members of Congress need to be reminded of what the Constitution actually says and means so the abuse of this power will not continue and true 'general welfare' can be re-instated! Also, in light of today's recent tragedies, do not think I am advocating for the neglect of those in our country who are truly in need. On the contrary, the much needed special welfare for specific groups and crisis' can and should be encouraged where it has always been best served—at the local individual, town, and/or state levels. Here is where it can most effectively be given and protected meeting the needs where they can be more clearly understood and aided.

May we all become more respectful and responsible with the interpretation of our Constitution concerning our nation's money learning the lesson Davy Crockett learned so long ago. May we also rise to the occasion when it presents itself and dig deep in our own pockets giving what is ours to give when our fellow countrymen are in obvious need. May we recognize this is what makes our country so strong and great! This—our individual liberty and character to do what is right knowing one day it might be ourselves who are in need of a helping hand!

May God bless America!

CELEBRATING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LOCAL SUPPORT INITIATIVES CORPORATION

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 27, 2005

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that tomorrow, Wednesday, September 28, 2005, the Local Initiatives Support Corporation will celebrate its 25th anniversary here in Washington. LISC certainly has a lot to celebrate.

This national organization was born out of the foresight of Mike Sviridoff and the Ford Foundation, with just \$10 million and the goal of identifying 50 to 100 local economic development organizations worthy of support. Even Mr. Sviridoff himself might not have envisioned that, within a quarter of a century, LISC would grow into an organization that has raised more than \$6 billion dollars in grants, loans and equity for more than 1,700 community develop-

ment corporations nationwide. These funds support projects in 38 cities and rural areas in 37 states.

LISC's mission is to help "resident-led, community-based development organizations transform distressed communities and neighborhoods into healthy ones—good places to live, do business, work and raise families." It works toward these ends by providing comprehensive services to the CDCs it serves, from capital to technical expertise, training, and information. In addition, LISC supports the development of local leadership and the creation of affordable housing, commercial development, industrial and community facilities, and jobs. In short, it helps residents build and strengthen their own communities.

LISC is an intermediary for more than 900 corporations and foundations, providing technical and financial resources to help CDCs become fiscally sound institutions capable of carrying out a range of community revitalization activities. LISC's second focus is in improving local community development environments. The strength of the organization lies in its abilities to forge partnerships among local LISC programs, community organizations, foundations, commercial interests, and state and local governments. In addition, LISC branches beyond its local focus by advocating for neighborhood-based development and informing related public policy decisions at the federal level.

I have witnessed the value of LISC's work first hand, as our local branch has revitalized many of the most distressed communities in Toledo, OH. Toledo LISC currently funds one dozen of our community development corporations, and over its 15-year presence has funded nearly two dozen. As of December 31, 2004, contributions from corporations, individuals, small businesses and foundations totaling \$3.6 million had leveraged nearly \$60 million for Toledo CDCs.

As a result of these investments, redevelopment projects have replaced deteriorated homes and buildings with sought-after housing and commercial real estate. One such project was the creation of Toledo's newest subdivision of market-rate single-family homes. Of the ten new homes constructed thus far, nine have already been sold. This development was possible in part because of a pre-development loan from LISC to the Organized Neighbors Yielding eXcellence (ONYX) CDC. Another of LISC's successes is a result of its alliance with the Toledo Warehouse District Association. The Association developed a mixed-use property with 11 lofts and 10 commercial spaces within walking distance of a variety of entertainment venues. This project cost \$2.9 million and included Historic Tax Credits, Lucas County Linked Deposit, a city of Toledo Economic Development Loan, a Congressional special purposes grant, and financing through Fifth Third and Sky Bank. Again, the project was possible because of start-up funds from LISC.

Since welcoming LISC into my neighborhood in 1989, it has been my honor to be associated with an organization so important to both our communities and the nation at large. I congratulate LISC on its past successes and encourage corporations, foundations, and individuals alike to continue to support LISC and its worthy mission of converting blighted neighborhoods into vibrant communities.